

## Message Text

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16 L  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01

DRC-01 /106 W  
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P R 061240Z NOV 73  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3699  
INFO SECDEF  
CJCS  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
CINCPAC  
COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12130

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: MILI, CB  
SUBJ: FANK PERSONNEL CHANGES

REF: A) DAO CAM-1593 060346Z NOV 73  
B) PHNOM PENH 11900

1. THE FANK HIGH LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES WHICH WERE REPORTED IN REF A AND WHICH ENSUED FROM AN ALL-DAY MEETING OF PRESIDENT LON NOL, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AND OTHERS ON OCTOBER 4, CONSTITUTE A REACTION BOTH TO RECENT TACTICAL DEFEATS AT TRAM KHAR AND TUK LAOK AND TO GROSS DEFICIENCIES IN THE HANDLING OF NEW RECRUITS AT LOVEK TRAINING CENTER (REF B). IF THEY GO THROUGH (AND WE HAVE A REPORT TONIGHT THAT BOTH HOU HANG SINA ND MAO SUM KHEM ARE PETITIONING THE MARSHAL TO BE LEFT WHERE THEY ARE), WE BELIEVE THESE CHANGES WILL IN THE AGGREGATE STRENGTHEN THE TRAINING DIRECTORATE, THE GENERAL STAFF AND KEY MILITARY DISTRICTS NEAR THE CAPITAL. THEY WILL CON-

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CURRENTLY WEAKEN CERTAIN AREAS SUCH AS LOGISTICS,

HOWEVER, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH GENERALS WHO ARE BOTH COMPETENT AND LOYAL TO THE PRESIDENT TO GO AROUND. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO US BY SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, BUT NOT RPT NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

2. BG KIM AN-DORE, AS ASST COFS FOR PERSONNEL, WILL BRING BADLY NEEDED RANK AND TALENT TO THE FANK PERSONNEL SECTOR. HE SERVED AS G-1, WE UNDERSTAND EFFECTIVELY, BEFORE MARCH 1970 AND HAS A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY. HE HAS PROVED TO BE A GOOD MANAGER AND DISCIPLINARIAN IN HIS PRESENT JOB AS COMMANDANT OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

3. JG HOU HANG SIN WILL BRING DRIVE AND ENERGY TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF INSTRUCTION (DGI) AND WE EXPECT TO SEE A BADLY NEEDED SHAKE-UP THERE. BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARSHAL, WE EXPECT DGI WILL ALSO BEGIN TO RECEIVE ITS SHARE OF FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT. WE ARE NOT UNHAPPY TO SEE HOU HANG SIN LEAVE THE POSITION OF ASST COFS FOR OPERATIONS, WHERE LARGELY AS AN AGENT OF THE MARSHAL BUT ALSO ON HIS OWN HE HAS MADE SOME UNWISE, IMPULSIVE DECISIONS AND HAS MEDDLED UNHELPFULLY IN PERSONNEL AND FORCE STRUCTURE MATTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT HOU HANG SIN WILL RETAIN HIS ROLE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE LIBERATION AND NATIONAL BUILDING DIRECTORATE.

4. MG MAO SUM KHEM WILL PROBABLY BE AN IMPROVEMENT AS ASST COFS FOR OPERATIONS. HE IS AS RESPONSIBLE TO LON NOL AS HIS PREDECESSOR. HE IS ALSO THE ONLY OTHER GENERAL OFFICER WITH THE ENERGY AND DRIVE OF HIS PREDECESSOR BUT HE IS LESS IMPLUSIVE, HAS A LESS ABRASIVE PERSONNALITY AND USE HIS STAFF TO BETTER ADVANTAGE. DESPITE HIS LONG TENURE AS COFS OF LOGISTICS, MAO SUM KHEM IS BY TRAINING A LINE OFFICER AND SHOULD BRING GOOD JUDGEMENT TO THE JOB. IT IS PERHAPS ALSO WISE TO DISTANCE MAO SUM KHEM FROM LOGISTICS AS HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION.

5. MG MOUL KHLENG, AS ASST COFS FOR LOGISTICS, IS  
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CERTAINLY THE WEAKEST MEMBER OF THE NEW GENERAL STAFF TEAM. HIS POOR PERFORMANCE AS MR I AND MR II COMMANDER SEEMS, IN FACT, TO HAVE WEAKENED THE ONE ATTRIBUTE IN

HIS FAVOR, HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARSHAL. HIS REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION AT LEAST EQUALS THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR AS COFS FOR LOGISTICS. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT MUOL KHLENG HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED

BY THE PRESIDENT AND MG FERNANDEZ FROM BRINGING HIS MEN WITH HIM. MOUL KHLENG'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER SHOULD BE CIRCUMSCRIBED SINCE THE CAPABLE COL. ITH KYATH WILL REMAIN AS G-4.

6. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE NEWLY NAMED SUBDIVISION COMMANDERS COULD BE LISTED AMONG FANK'S TOP OFFICERS, ALL SEEM TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE CURRENT SITUATION.

A. NAVER VERY FORCEFUL, BG CHEA KIM ENG HAS RECENTLY APPEARED COWED BY HIS DISMISSAL AS COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE. HE IS, HOWEVER, A REASONABLY CAPABLE ORGANIZER AND MAY DO WELL AT HIS PRINCIPAL TASK OF CONSOLIDATING UNITS AND SQUARING AWAY THE DEFENSES OF THE IMPORTANT KAMPONG CHHNANG SUBDISTRICT. HE SHOULD IN ANY EVENT BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE INCUMBENT, BG YONG YOC HANG, WHO HAS DONE MUCH TO ORGANIZE VILLAGERS BUT NOTHING AT ALL TO ORGANIZE A DEFENSE OF ROUTE 5.

B. COLONEL MECH KEAN, COMMANDER OF THE KAMPONG SPEU SUBDIVISION, CAN BE EXPECTED TO WORK WELL WITH HIS FORMER BOSS AND CURRENT MR II COMMANDER XG SREY MEAS. WE MIGHT THEREFORE SEE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THIS HERETOFORE WEAK BUT STRATEGIC SUBDIVISION.

C. COLONEL CHOU SIEN'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE KANDAL MILITARY SUBDISTRICT ON PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER WILL FREE SECOND DIVISION COMMANDER BG DIEN DEL FROM TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES HE HAS LONG WISHED TO DISCARD. IT MIGHT ALSO IMPROVE THE PRESENTLY POOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND CIVIL LEADERS IN THAT KEY PROVINCE.

7. THE OTHER ASSIGNMENTS SERVE PRINCIPALLY TO CLEAR THE DGI OF DUDS, WHO WILL FOR THE MOST PART NOW JOIN  
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OTHERS IN THE INSPECTORATES GENERAL OF DEFENSE AND FANK, MV NHU THO IS, HOWEVER, AN ACCEPTABLE COMMANDANT OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY/C&GSC AND WILL FREE THE MORE CAPABLE BG DAN MEN FOR THE KAMPONG CHHNANG OCS ACADEMY.  
ENDERS

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